

have been in this area. I have worked in and out of jails as both a volunteer and as a paid employee for over 30 years. I am not a do-gooder, social worker, I am a person who has just worked in them jails. I do not, and I need to go on public record, support violent criminals being on the streets, as I don't think any of you do. I support the death penalty for heinous crimes. But we're, people, we're talking here about misdemeanors in a county and city jail, we're not talking about prison, where they already get 50 percent good time. And I know some people said they would like to change that. But if you have ever worked in a prison, you would definitely keep it, it's the only control you have. The people who go to prison don't go in there thinking they're being rewarded with good time, that is used so we have some kind of discipline within them systems. In the state prison system 95 percent of the people who go into the prisons in the State of Nebraska will sooner or later hit the streets. If they're violent criminals, is that going to change anything? In the county system I'm guessing right now that about, especially in Douglas County, that about 20 percent, I mean about...our average length of stay is 20 days. This would probably shorten that somewhere, and I'm not real sure of this, somewhere to the average length of stay of about 17 days. Again, we're talking about misdemeanors. Most of us in here, some time in our lives, have committed a misdemeanor. Definitely, we have had children or grandchildren who have probably committed misdemeanors. But it's different, people. I have been in that position, especially since I've become a senator, that people call me and say, Senator Pedersen, we know you work in the jail, what can you do about getting my son or my daughter's sentence cut. And these are the people who are saying we want more against criminals. I am not on the side of the criminal. If anything else we need to look back and say where are we going to start in prevention, in the early years, and take a good, long look at how the people end up there to begin with. Yes, some of these are their first time, Senator Jensen, into the system, and I think they need to learn something. What we need to do here, especially if you live in Douglas County, is go down and see that Douglas County jail system, it's not a pleasant place to be. And those people who are serving that time don't like it, whether it's 10 days or 30 days, and they're all clamoring to get out a little early. Those who get out early and never come back have done the same thing, where they reduced with good time sentencing, as those who come back for a second time and are on the road to being full life criminals. If you get time to talk to people and get